Setting up of Defence Procurement Board

4439. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inter-Ministerial Group has recommended for setting up of a Defence Procurement Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Group has also recommended for appointment of Chief of Defence Staff and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government are contemplating to revamp the national security scenario in the backdrop of Tehelka disclosures?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) on 17th April 2000 to thoroughly review the national security system in its entirety and, in particular to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and formulate specific proposals for implementation. The GoM has recommended creation of a separate and dedicated institutional structure *i.e.* the Defence Procurement Board to supervise the entire gamut of procurement functions. The GoM has further recommended creation of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). This would, *inter alia,* facilitate better utilization of the national resources through establishment of requisite jointness amoungst the Armed Forces, ensure *inter se* and *intra se* prioritization of the equipment related requirements of the Services and also facilitate single point military advice being made available to the Government. The recommendations of the GoM have been presented to the Prime Minister on 26.2.2001. After examination and acceptance of the Report by the Government, action as required will be taken expeditiously.

(d) All necessary steps to ensure national security are being taken by the Government.